

cian's office for filing in the patient's medical record. Many mammography centers routinely send "well letters" to patients when no abnormality is noted. Should the patient receive an exact copy of the entire mammography report or a modification in lay terms? This and similar questions are currently being explored by the ACR Breast Imaging Committee.

All of this is good news to professionals providing health care to women and to all women having screening mammography. Educating professionals and laypersons with clear, concise communication is essential to the success of the goal that all women in the United States older than 35 years have initial screening mammography and continue to have annual screening mammograms after age 40.

* * *

DOWAGER'S HUMP

From the balcony
I watch the choir proceed
up the aisle like two lines
of twisted trees,
silver tops sway
from side to side,
as each step uproots them,
wobbles them towards the risers.

They fear falling, these women,
fear the cause of a fall,
bone snapping in midair
to rearrange their years.

I see several with dowager's hump;
anyone could be my mother
with a twisted "S" for a spine
hidden under her clothes,

and I want to run home, swallow
calcium, walk, stretch,
do whatever can be done, today,
to avoid their paralyzing posture.

Mother said it was rickets,
her childhood disease, or
was it the lack of fruit?
lack of milk?
when no one knew about vitamins,
and no one ever said
you're part of the universe,
made of the same stuff,
iron and zinc and calcium
and when something's missing
the rock crumbles,
trees tumble,
stars disappear,
or one hip shifts out of line,
shoulders pitch forward
and mother cries
before the dressing room mirror.

MARILYN J. BOE©
Bloomington, Minnesota